



University of Kentucky fans looking over a fence yesterday behind the famed grassy knoll in Dallas' Dealey Plaza were, from left, Ron Smith, Mike Goatley, his son Glenn Goatley and Slim Cambron.

STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES H. WALLACE

A few somber hours 3-96

Cats fans pause to visit Kennedy assassination site

By CYNTHIA EAGLES
Staff Writer

DALLAS — They may have been dressed as they would for a game, with their blue towels worn like aprons and their hats laden with UK buttons.

But Wallace Fauth, Slim Cambron, Ron Smith and Mike and Glenn Goatley spent a few somber hours of their Dallas basketball weekend yesterday visiting two sites associated with the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"It would be a shame to be so close and not see it," said Cambron, 61.

So this group of friends from the Springfield, Ky., area toured The Sixth Floor Museum at the former Texas School Book Depository, which was Lee Harvey Oswald's hiding place, according to the official account of the assassination, and then walked around to the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza, from which, conspiracy theorists have contended, additional

shots were fired at Kennedy.

The museum, with its dim and hushed atmosphere, silences even the giggles of schoolchildren. Some of the men choked up; Cambron wiped a finger under his eye after watching a video of Walter Cronkite reporting Kennedy's death.

Cronkite had taken off his glasses to announce the time of death, and he paused a second before putting his glasses back on, "like he couldn't bear to say it," Cambron said.

"It's just like it happened yesterday," Mike Goatley, 56, told his son Glenn.

Mike Goatley recalled that on Nov. 22, 1963, he entered a stripping room with "a big wad of tobacco over my shoulder and it came over the radio that President Kennedy had been shot."

He recalled coming home from Mass two days later, turning on the television, and seeing Jack Ruby shoot Oswald.

Glenn Goatley, 31, who was born a

few years after the assassination, said he had a hard time watching 3-year-old John Kennedy Jr. salute his father's casket in another museum video. Twice, he stood and watched the brief video of the funeral procession and thought about his own 3-year-old son.

"I can't believe they let him ride around in something so open like that," Goatley said, after passing the exhibit showing a local newspaper with a map of the route Kennedy's motorcade was scheduled to take.

"Things were different then," his father replied.

Their visit complete — and with part of a sunny day in a basketball tournament weekend still ahead of them — the group had other things in mind.

After looking around the grassy knoll for several minutes, they decided to move on to another location well known to TV viewers.

"Y'all ready to head to Southfork?" asked Cambron. "Let's go."